United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

August 30, 2006

The Honourable Laurel C. Broten
Minister of the Environment
12th Floor, 135 St. Clair Avenue West
Toronto, Ontario
M4V 1P5

Dear Minister Broten:

We have received your letter and are pleased that the Ontario government has secured the commitment of its municipalities to reduce shipments of municipally-managed solid waste to Michigan by 20 percent by the end of 2007, by 40 percent by the end of 2008 and eliminate them altogether by the end of 2010, using the 2005 baseline of 1.34 million metric tons of municipal waste shipped. This amounts to 2.78 million metric tons of waste over the four year period that would otherwise have been shipped to Michigan by 2010, and even more after that date.

As you know, the shipment of waste from Ontario to Michigan landfills has created environmental problems for our state as well as traffic congestion, road damage and security concerns at the border. That is why this has been unacceptable to us and why we have worked so hard to stop this waste from coming into Michigan. And that is why we have offered tough legislation and passed two Senate amendments in this year's Department of Homeland Security Appropriations bill to put a stop to this practice.

We were pleased that the passage of these amendments led your staff to contact us about finding a permanent solution to this problem. Now that this has been achieved, the commitment as outlined in your letter is in our view the best and most certain way to achieve that permanent solution, and is therefore in the best interest of the people of Michigan.

Therefore, based on the commitment to reduce and eventually eliminate shipments of municipal solid waste set out in your letter, we agree not to pursue passage of these amendments in the Homeland Security Appropriations bill, or pursue similar current or future measures, consistent with our constitutional duties.

We would like to thank you and your staff for all of the hard work over the last few weeks. Michigan and Ontario have historically been great neighbors and we believe that both sides can be proud of our good-faith commitment to stop the shipment of municipal solid waste to Michigan.

Sincerely,

Debbie Stabenow

Carl Levin